

THE LIONS PRIDE

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Equipping Students for Success

The mission of the West Islip business education department is to empower students through a dynamic and student-centered learning environment. Teachers are committed to fostering practical, real-world skills essential for success in college, career and beyond. The comprehensive courses delve deep into diverse fields such as accounting, marketing, business law, web design, social media, entrepreneurship, career and finance, and a specialized college freshman seminar, preparing seniors for the rigors of higher education.

There's also the Virtual Enterprise program, where students embark on a journey to create and nurture startup companies, participating in regional trade shows and gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

Complemented by DECA and Future Business Leaders of America extracurricular clubs, students engage in real-world scenarios, crafting

corporate business plans that impact local businesses directly. The district also offers an opportunity for high-achieving students through the esteemed New York State Business and Marketing Honor Society. This prestigious society allows exceptional students to showcase their talents, fostering leadership and excellence within the business/marketing department. The Business Industry Advisory Board features partnerships with local business leaders who support West Islip students with valued feedback and opportunities for students to grow into professionals.

"Through innovative teaching practices and a focus on communication technology, we equip our students with the versatility to thrive as team members in large corporations or to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations,"

said Dr. James Grover, director of math, business and FACS. "Our aim is to cultivate a community of forward-thinkers and skilled professionals who are poised to make significant contributions to the ever-evolving landscape of business and industry."

The West Islip business education department is dedicated to cultivating this passion early in students' education, beginning with the middle school program, "Building Your Tomorrow." This innovative curriculum introduces students to fundamental career

exploration, personal finance and communication skills while emphasizing diverse pathways and including a captivating unit in culinary arts.

From middle school exploration to high school excellence, the West Islip business education department is committed to providing a comprehensive and enriching educational journey. Its focus remains on equipping students with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for success in the dynamic world of business and beyond.

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Building Your Tomorrow classes at the middle school recently designed aprons using the Cricut. They also recently participated in a grilled cheese cooking lab and a refrigerated cookie taste test cooking lab. The students have an upcoming unit on laundry care.

Students in grades one through five at Oquenock Elementary School earn class money and can make purchases in the class store. Students in the upper grades must calculate tax on items they wish to purchase, and all students learn how to count back their change. Earning money in specific coins helps to build number sense like counting by 5s and 10s. On occasion, some students even want to save their money for a more expensive item or gift card. Kindness peeks through as well when students purchase an item for their sibling or friend.

Membership in DECA helps the students to meet the rigorous New York State learning standards, both in content and performance. DECA members learn and develop important values such as civic consciousness, social intelligence, leadership skills and vocational understanding, which are instituted throughout the competition.



Students in Mr. Wallace's Business and Personal Law class visited the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip to take a tour of the New York State Criminal Court. The students entered an unoccupied courtroom, taking seats across the room, including at the plaintiff/defendant attorney tables, in the jury box, on the witness stand, and in the stenographer's seat, judge's chair, and court clerk seat. Students also visited the Suffolk County Sheriff's Command Center lockup to see how citizens/alleged criminals are processed and observed criminal arraignments, where they received a firsthand, visual lesson of misdemeanor and felony arraignments.



FBLA inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. West Islip students have attained hands-on experience through attending in college-level seminars about business, ethics and cybersecurity at Hofstra University and participating in marketing competitions against fellow Long Island students at Adelphi University.

Business Lessons at Work

Students in Intro to Computer Essentials at Udall Road Middle School learned how to create art using computer pixels. The eighth grade designed holiday-themed greeting cards with computer programming.



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Setting the Stage With VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE



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Virtual Enterprise is a dynamic, student-centered, real-world business startup experience that removes the walls of a traditional classroom and opens students to global experiences. West Islip UFSD incorporates VE as a capstone business education course that unfolds over one full year of instruction, with students actively engaged while gaining real-world business experience.

Students work individually and as a firm to establish and manage departments such as administration, accounting,

finance, sales, marketing, human resources and IT, and produce projects required in a real business while developing in-demand skills and competencies that postsecondary institutions and employers are seeking. Students engage in hands-on learning experiences inside and outside the classroom by conducting market research, developing business plans and annual reports, and experiencing financial market dynamics.

Local, regional and national VE events provide opportunities for students to present their

work, experience real-world competition, network with peers, and connect with college and business partners. Students also engage in trade with students from around the world using VE's online global banking system that links all U.S. firms with other student-run businesses worldwide. As students engage in business and trade across industries, borders and cultures, they develop cross-cultural awareness and an understanding of the global economy.

The VE Long Island program currently includes more than 115 teachers in 84 high schools and nine middle schools, with more than 140 student-run businesses. The West Islip High School VE program has grown to include three classes with 75 juniors and seniors enrolled.

In January, 36 West Islip High School business education students participated in the

Virtual Enterprise Regional Trade Show and Business Plan Competition at LIU Post. West Islip Virtual Enterprise firms in attendance included EZ-Gym, Midnight Cupcakes and ViBrace. The students participated in a live, interactive trade show and competed for best business plan, best sales pitch, best exhibit booth and more. The annual event draws Long Island students who create and manage simulated businesses with their Virtual Enterprise classmates. Midnight Cupcakes was awarded gold in the Sales Pitch Competition, silver in the Sales Material Competition and silver in the Website Competition. In April, West Islip High School firms are scheduled to attend the VE International Trade Show at the Jacob Javits Center, which brings together 5,000 students from 18 states and nine countries.

